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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/317,986

Attorney Docket No. Q54509

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average fiber diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less comprising polyarylene sulfide having a branched structure and a non-Newtonian coefficient of 1.05-1.20.

2.-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): The melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average fiber diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less according to claim 1, wherein said polyarylene sulfide is a reaction product of an alkaline metal sulfide, a dihaloaromatic compound and a polyhaloaromatic compound having 3 or more halogen substituents in one molecule, wherein 0.01-0.3 mol %, based on 100 mol % of said alkaline metal sulfide, of said ~~polyhaloaromatic~~ polyhaloaromatic compound is added in a reaction to form the reaction product.

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): The melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average fiber diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less according to claim 18, wherein said polyarylene sulfide is subjected to a thermal oxidation cross-linking treatment.

9. (canceled).